GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4175
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRO-CARBON SECTOR IN ORISSA
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of initiatives and development taken place in the hydrocarbon sector and the ethanol and petrol blending programme in the country;

(b) whether development of above programme would be extended to the State of Orissa during current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) In the upstream sector, New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) implemented by the Government of India, provides international quality terms and conditions for exploration of oil & gas, the award of exploration blocks being based on global competitive bidding. More than eight oil and gas discoveries have been made so far in various NELP blocks. Regarding ethanol blending programme, Government have already taken a decision to introduce 5% ethanol blended petrol in the entire country in two phases. In the first phase 9 sugar producing States and 4 contiguous UTs are to be covered in a phased manner starting from 1.1.2003 and stretching up to 30.6.2003. In the second stage, the entire country will be covered.

(b)and(c) The NELP is applicable to the State of Orissa andone exploration block in the State, namely MN-ONN-2000/1,has been awarded under the second round of NELP bidding. In so far as extension of ethanol blending programme to the State of Orissa is concerned, it would be in the second phase of implementation However, the time schedule for the start of second phase will depend upon availability of ethanol for this purpose. The work at Paradip Refinery in Orissa is also under way and the project schedules are under review by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).